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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, May 22, 2003

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Van Woerkom's Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism Committee Adopts Two Bovine Tuberculosis Resolutions

*Resolutions seek split-state status and
urge Congress to provide adequate funding to fight disease in Michigan*

LANSING – The Senate Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism Committee today adopted Senate Resolution 87 and Senate Resolution 88 to address bovine tuberculosis in Michigan, Senator Gerald Van Woerkom, R-Norton Shores, announced.

“Michigan has spent nearly \$50 million to eradicate bovine tuberculosis in the white-tailed deer population and domestic livestock,” Van Woerkom said. “Farmers in Michigan need additional resources to battle the bovine tuberculosis disease and return our state to a TB-free status.”

Senate Resolution 87, sponsored by Senator Van Woerkom, urges Congress and the Bush Administration to continue providing adequate federal funding to address the bovine tuberculosis disease in Michigan. The state will face competition for federal funding with California's loss of TB-free status last month. The resolution also highlights the impact of bovine tuberculosis on agriculture, hunting and tourism in the state.

Senate Resolution 88, sponsored by Senator Michael Prusi, outlines support for the United States Department of Agriculture's proposed rule to grant Michigan bovine tuberculosis on split-state status. The new split-status will allow cattle producers outside the affected area greater market access by reducing the regulatory barriers to movement and potentially increasing their profits. The resolution also allows state officials to focus their eradication resources on northeast Lower Michigan.

SR 87 and SR 88 will now be considered by the full Senate.